

REMARKS

1. Drawings

The drawings are objected to in the Office Action as failing to disclose every feature of the invention specified in the claims. The rejection is respectfully traversed. There is no requirement that every feature of the invention be disclosed in the drawings. Only information essential for a proper understanding of the invention should be shown in the drawings. MPEP 608.02(e).

2. Claim Rejections – 35 USC 112

Claim 20 has been rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Specifically, the phrase "logical address that could be used by the first AAA server between a next time period", and more specifically the term "could be" is objected to in the Office Action. The claim has been amended for clarity.

3. Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102

Claims 20-23 and 34-35 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Salama. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

A. Edge Router not an AAA Server

The Examiner states that edge router 300 in Fig. 3, which manages the local IP address pools and interfaces with global IP addresses, is equivalent to the claimed AAA servers. To this point, the Examiner argued, in the Advisory Action dated January 29, 2008, that an "edge router can be perform AAA server because [sic] performing [sic] the same function as the AAA server. The only different is it control the local address pools instead of AAA server control the Global IP address." Applicants respectfully disagree.

It is clear from Salama that an edge router is not an AAA server. Indeed, a review of Fig. 4 clearly shows edge routers 410 and 415, which are completely separate and independent of AAA server 405. See, col. 7, lns. 24-27, "A Global IP address pool 400 is maintained in AAA server 405. Edge routers 410 and 415 communicate with the AAA server

405 via AAA proxies 420 and 425." This language clearly differentiates the AAA server from the edge routers, and specifically states that the edge routers communicate with the AAA server via an AAA proxy (AAA client). Hence, multiple edge routers are connected to a single AAA server via AAA clients residing in the respective edge router. Contrary to the Examiner's contention, the edge router is not performing as an AAA server. Moreover, the Examiner fails to indicate where in the reference the edge router acts and/or performs as an AAA server. Rather, the Examiner has simply stated his personal belief that an "edge router can [sic] perform [as an] AAA server" without providing any evidentiary support for this statement.

B. Regularly Sending an Updated Message Between AAA Servers

Assuming *arguendo* that Salama discloses more than one AAA Server, the reference fails to teach regularly sending an updated message between AAA servers. Rather, the messages sent in Salama are sent when the edge router assigns an IP address, which occurs at random or non-regular intervals. The fact that the edge router and DHCP server maintain a global IP address pool is irrelevant.

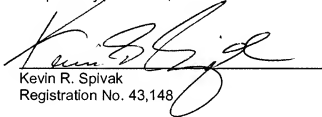
C. Estimating Number of Logical Addresses

Salama does not estimate a number of logical addresses issuable by a first AAA server, as required by the claimed invention. This estimation allows the AAA server to determine which addresses will be required by the first AAA server between a next time period. Salama, on the other hand, alters the size of the IP address pool based upon utilization. That is, Salama adjusts pools if an IP address pool utilization exceeds a high-water mark. This is distinct from the present invention that estimates future use by, for example, forming the product of the maximum rate at which the AAA server can process requests for the issue of a logical address and the time period between the updating message which is being sent and the next-following updating message.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit they have addressed each and every item presented by the Examiner in this Office Action. Favorable reconsideration of all of the claims, as amended, is earnestly solicited. Applicants submit that the present application, with the foregoing claim amendments and accompanying remarks, is in a condition for allowance and respectfully request such allowance.

In the event any further matters requiring attention are noted by Examiner, or in the event that prosecution of this application can otherwise be advanced thereby, a telephone call to Applicants' undersigned representative at the number shown below is invited. Further, Applicants hereby petition for the Commissioner to charge any additional fees or any underpayment of fees which may be required for this Amendment and which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case at any time during prosecution, or to credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 04-1061.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin R. Spivak
Registration No. 43,148

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DICKINSON WRIGHT PLLC
1875 Eye Street, NW, Suite 1200
Washington, D.C. 20006
Telephone: 202/659-6959
Facsimile: 202/659-1559
DC 135131v1